

# The Village Crier

Newsletter of the Housing Authority of Fort Fairfield

Fall 2009

## **Director's Corner.**

### **5-Year Planning Process Underway:**

The Fort Fairfield Housing Authority has started its 5-Year Planning Process which will identify upcoming Capital Fund needs that can be accomplished over the next 5 years. The Housing Authority receives funds from HUD for this purpose each year. While the amount of funding is not as much as it has been in the past, it will make a significant impact on the conditions of our facilities.

I would like to invite some of our tenants to participate in this project as members of our 5-Year Planning Committee. If you are interested in participating please call the office at 476-5771 and let us know of your interest. Our next meeting is October 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

How can you help us?

- Look around your apartment and your neighborhood.
- What needs to be updated or repaired?
- What needs to be improved?
- What can we do to save \$ or to become more green.

We will also be scheduling an evening meeting so that we can gather tenant input.

We have recently had an engineering firm do a needs assessment survey and will be conducting an energy audit as well this fall. With these reports and tenant and employee input we will develop our 5-Year Plan. I would appreciate your participation and support.

Wayne E. Troicke  
Executive Director

## **REAC is Coming.**

What is REAC? REAC is the Real Estate Assessment Center, and will be visiting us on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. What this means for our tenants is that you will be undergoing a series of inspections of your units between October and December.

First – Many of you have annual inspections in October and November.

Second – We will be conducting a Pre-REAC inspection of all units around the last week of November.

And Finally – The REAC inspectors will conduct random inspections of our Public Housing units on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

The pre-REAC inspection will not affect our tenants in Morningview or Fields Lane II as your units are not public housing.

Fields Lane II was inspected by REAC in 2008 and should not be coming up for another one until next year.

### **The time to start preparing your units for these inspections is now:**

- Start with your outside clean-up while the weather is good. Wash your entry doors and exterior windows you can reach from the ground.
- First, do a general purge of unwanted items and clean out your sheds. *The Housing Authority will be scheduling a large item pickup on October 22. Place your large items at the curb for pickup on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is no charge for this pick up service.*

*(Continued on Pg 2)*

**REAC (Continued)**

- Second, start the housecleaning, for some this will be a task that will take only a little time, for others it will take longer. Touch-up your units before each inspection.
  - Make sure the floors are uncluttered
  - Make sure that no exit is blocked; this includes piles of clothes by the laundry room in front of the door.
  - Make sure there are no tripping hazards such as cable wires or items on the stairs.

Please help us to maintain decent, safe, and affordable housing in Fort Fairfield by doing your part in maintaining your units.

### **Some Simple Steps to Prevent Eviction for Nonpayment**

- Pay your rent on time
- Report all changes in income within 10 days to the Housing Authority by filling out an Interim Change Form (located in the office lobby). *We do go back to collect back rent for unreported income.*
- If for any reason rent can not be paid on time, set up an appointment with Occupancy to make a repayment agreement. We do not make repayment agreements if you default on the first one, so honor your first one and make your payments. We can adjust agreements for hardship reasons but the existing agreement must be current.



### **PETS IN HOUSING**

Please take this opportunity to get your policy up-to-date if you:

1. Lost your pet and now have a new one
2. Got rid of a pet
3. Have a different pet then was reported,

#### **Things to remember about your pet policy:**

- 1) You are allowed only ONE cat or dog per household. A pet is considered a dog, cat, bird or small fish.

- 2) Pet must be less than 18 inches in height at the head and not vicious or intimidating.
- 3) You must provide papers showing that your pet is in good health and is current on all shots. Also, pet must be spayed or neutered (dog or cat).
- 4) Dogs must be licensed with the Town of Fort Fairfield and State of Maine.
- 5) You must have a signed Pet Policy on file that gives the name and contact information of individual willing to care for your pet in the case of an emergency.
- 6) You must stay current on pet deposit (\$10 per month until \$300 is paid in full)
- 7) Pet must be on a leash at all times if outside of the unit, with the owner holding the leash. Pets may not be leashed outside by themselves.
- 8) You are responsible for all damages caused by your pet
- 9) All cats or dogs must have a collar with identification tag
- 10) Pets must be housebroken. Don't forget your pooper scooper when outside, you must clean up behind your pet!
- 11) Any resident receiving 3 letters of violations you will receive formal EVICTION notice.
- 12) For a complete Pet Policy along with rules please come to the main office.
- 13) Please take notice, all untagged pets running loose will be trapped and turned over to animal control. Cages set out are property of the Housing Authority of Fort Fairfield tampering with or removing cages will result in criminal prosecution.



### **Snow Removal Policy**

Last year the Housing Authority of Fort Fairfield board approved a change to the snow removal policy for our family units at **Borderview**.

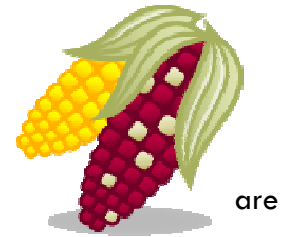
We will only be plowing driveways when snowfall exceeds 6 inches in depth. It will be the responsibility of the tenant to clear snowfalls less than six inches.

## NOTES FROM TRACIE, PAIGE AND LEON:

First of all, the Housing Authority would like to put out a special thank-you to all Borderview residents. Your patience with all of the construction has been greatly appreciated.

### Fall Advisories

→ Just a reminder as the first snow fall will be soon approaching; Borderview residents are responsible for shoveling their walkways and boiler room door entries. Morningview residents must make sure that their walkways are also shoveled along with the sidewalk in front of their apartment. Borderview residents also responsible for the driveways if snowfall is less than 6 inches.



→ As Fall time approaches, please be sure to pick up all summer items from the yards and place in storage before the snow starts to fly. Maintenance will not be responsible for any damages done to these items.

→ Starting October 15, 2009 and ending on May 1, 2010; you will no longer be able to keep your windows and doors open. If the Housing Authority finds you with an open window or door, you will be charged \$25.00 per occurrence.

→ Annual inspections (except for Morningview) will be from October 2009 to February 2010. If you have any repairs that need to be done, please report them to the Housing Authority as they arise.

# **B-I-N-G-O**

**October 14, 2009 at 2:00 PM**

**November 18, 2009 at 2:00 PM**

Bingo is in the Fields Lane Community Room. We have new items, so please come and join us. Feel free to bring your favorite snack to share! ☺ Also remember for those of you who have to complete community service, a great way to fulfill your requirement is to donate craft or homemade items to the Housing Authority as Bingo Prizes.



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!!**

Here are a few safety tips to follow for Trick or Treating...

\*Make sure your costume isn't too long so you don't trip

\*Always have an adult check the candy before you eat it

\*Bring a flashlight and wear reflective clothing

**\*HAVE FUN!!! ☺**

**Here is a good and easy recipe to try for Halloween and Thanksgiving:**

**PHILADELPHIA 3-STEP Pumpkin Cheesecake (provided by Kraftfoods.com)**

**Ingredients:**

**2 pkg. (8 oz. each) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened**

**1/2 cup canned pumpkin**

**1/2 cup sugar**

**1/2 tsp. vanilla**

**1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon**

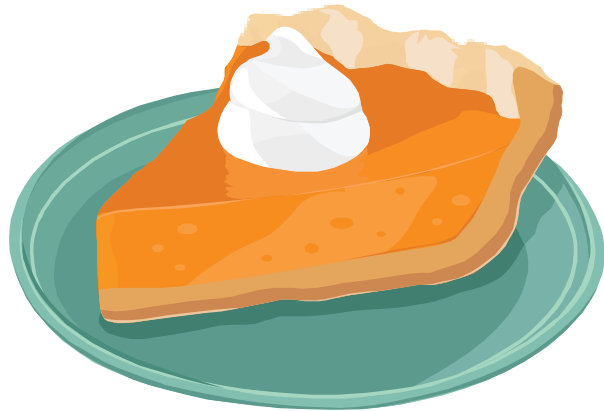
**Dash ground cloves**

**Dash ground nutmeg**

**2 eggs**

**1 HONEYMAID Graham Pie Crust (6 oz.)**

**1 cup thawed COOL WHIP Whipped Topping**



**PREHEAT** oven to 350°F. Beat cream cheese, pumpkin, sugar, vanilla and spices in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add eggs; beat just until blended.

**POUR** into crust.

**BAKE** 40 min. or until center is almost set. Cool. Refrigerate 3 hours or overnight. Top with whipped topping just before serving. Store leftovers in refrigerator.

## **AROOSTOOK FAMILY INVESTMENT CENTER**

### **ROSS GRANT**

The Aroostook Family Investment Center (AFIC) administers a ROSS Grant for Elderly/Adults with Disabilities in Public Housing that was awarded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In Fort Fairfield, this includes individuals residing in Fields Lane I, Fields Lane III, Hillcrest, and elderly/adults with disabilities living at Borderview. Our office is located at Hillcrest Estates and is open on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 until noon. We are available other hours by appointment. The telephone number to that office is 473-0971. We are available at other times in the Caribou office at 493-7823. Please leave a message and Joyce will return your phone call.

We will highlight some of the things that we do with the grant monies to enhance the lives of the residents; however, there are many opportunities available and we would love to hear from you with ideas for programs or services that you would like to see offered. A lot of our energies are geared to making referrals to various agencies that help residents with their individual issues. Please contact us if you think that we can be of assistance. The information that you provide is kept confidential.



### **AROOSTOOK REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BUS TICKETS (ARTS BUS)**

One of our popular programs is the distribution of FREE ARTS BUS tickets. These tickets are available for all of our registered elderly/adults with disabilities residents. There are no limitations on the usage of these tickets. You must make your own arrangements for the bus and instead of paying cash for your ride, simply give them one of the tickets that have been provided to you. Call Joyce at 493-7823 or 473-0971 and she will deliver (or mail) tickets to you. There is a small supply of tickets at the Housing Authority Office. Even if you have your own vehicle, we think it is a good idea to keep a couple on hand in case of emergencies or bad weather.



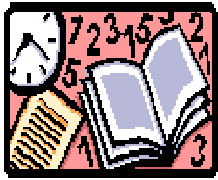
### **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION NUTRITION/COOKING CLASS LUNCHEON**

Charlotte Wilson from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Office in Presque Isle presents a monthly nutrition class. When you attend, you will receive valuable information on proper nutrition, great low-cost recipes, and helpful hints and help to prepare a healthy lunch which you will get to eat. The people who attend enjoy a great meal and good fellowship. We would love to have you attend. The meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm in the Hillcrest kitchen. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a friend if you like. We hope to see you there on October 6, 2009 or any other month.



### **GENTILE HALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE PRESQUE ISLE**

The AFIC is sponsoring membership at Gentile Hall at UMPI. This membership will be FREE to all of our qualified residents. Gentile Hall is the fitness center at UMPI. There are exercise programs, indoor heated swimming pool, gym and other fitness activities. If you are interested, please call Joyce for more information. She needs to send a letter to UMPI authorizing your participation. You will need to bring proof of income (Social Security letter or 2008 income tax form) when you enroll.



### **SENIORS ACHIEVING GREATER EDUCATION (SAGE)**

SAGE is an educational program designed for adults age 50 and older. SAGE brings members together in a relaxed non-competitive atmosphere to discover new things about the world and themselves. There is no admission requirement, no examinations and no grades-learning is its own reward. Courses vary in length from three to eight weeks and there are two sessions per year. One begins in October so if you are interested, please hurry with your registration. Excursions to special places and events are planned whenever possible. SAGE is offered through the University of Maine at Presque Isle. You may contact them at: Email: [mary.l.Lawrence@umpi.edu](mailto:mary.l.Lawrence@umpi.edu); Telephone: (207) 768-9502 or Fax: (207) 768-9507. This program will be funded by the ROSS grant for our enrollees. Please call Joyce at 493-7823 if you are interested.



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN? IS THERE AN EVENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND? WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE CLASSES? WOULD YOU LIKE A FIELD TRIP TO A SPECIAL PLACE? PLEASE CALL JOYCE WITH YOUR WANTS AND NEEDS AT 493-7823. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN MAKE THEM HAPPEN.



# OCTOBER 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> <i>CLOSED</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Matter of Balance Class</i> <i>in Fields Lane</i> <i>9-11 AM</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> <i>Matter of Balance Class</i> <i>in Fields Lane</i> <i>9-11 AM</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Sunshine Club</i> <i>11:00 AM</i>	<i>9</i> <i>CLOSED</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> <i>CLOSED for Columbus</i> <i>Day!!</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> <i>BINGO in the Fields</i> <i>Lane Community Room</i> <i>2:00 PM</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>CLOSED</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> <i>Commissioners Meeting</i> <i>@ Hillcrest</i> <i>7:30 AM</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Sunshine Club</i> <i>11:00 AM</i>	<i>23</i> <i>CLOSED</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> <i>CLOSED</i>	<i>31</i>  <i>HAPPY</i> <i>HALLOWEEN!!!!</i>